

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00507 191033Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1154

S E C R E T BAGHDAD 0507

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ

SUBJECT: MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR WIFE OF PRESIDENT AHMAD
HASSAN AL-BAKR

1. FOREIGN MINISTER TAQA CALLED ME IN ON SHORT NOTICE AFTER-NOON OF AUGUST 18. IN FORTY MINUTE MEETING WITH NO OTHERS PRESENT, FORMIN COMMENTED ON NUMBER OF SUBJECTS (REPORTED SEPTELS), BUT MAIN PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO ALERT USG THAT WIFE OF PRESIDENT AL-BAKR DESIRES TO MAKE VISIT TO U.S. FOR MEDICAL CHECK-UP AND POSSIBLE TREATMENT. FORMIN SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY PRESIDENCY TO PERSONALLY REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT ENSURE NECESSARY SECURITY FOR MRS. AL-BAKR, KEEP VISIT SECRET, AND PROVIDE OTHER APPROPRIATE COURTESIES. FORMIN REFERRED TO EXCELLENT TREATMENT DEPARTMENT HAD ACCORDED WIFE OF RCC VICE-CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN AND IMPLIED THAT THIS WAS MAIN REASON MRS. AL-BAKR WAS SEEKING TREATMENT IN U.S. I ASSURED FORMIN THA GOI COULD COUNT ON DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE ALL APPROPRIATE COURTESIES AND THAT I WOULD TRANSMIT REQUEST IMMEDIATELY.

2. TAQA SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE DETAILS ABOUT VISIT AND MEMBERS OF ENTOURAGE SOON. HE THOUGHT THAT MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS WERE BEING MADE BY IRAQI REPS IN U.S. HE SAID MRS. AL-BAKR HAD STOMACH PROBLEM THAT MAY OR MAY NOT REQUIRE TREATMENT.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ASSURANCE TO CONVEY
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TO FORMIN THT APPROPRIATE SECURITY AND OTHER COURTESIES

WILL BE PROVIDED. LOWRIE

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